

# 10 killed in fresh Taraba violence

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At least 10 people were killed and property worth millions of naira destroyed in an early morning attack launched on Ibi, Taraba State yesterday.

Chairman of Ibi local government area, Alhaji Ishaka Adamu, who confirmed the incident to Daily Trust by telephone, said the attackers suspected to have come through neighboring Wukari, invaded the town and fired sporadically.

He said residents were woken up at about 5am yesterday with sound of heavy gunshots all over town and burning down

of houses.

Alhaji Adamu said he had counted 10 dead bodies so far and that efforts were still ongoing to recover more bodies at the time of filing this report.

A witness said trouble started on Wednesday when a man from Ibi went to a bank in Wukari to withdraw some money for his private use.

While the man was returning from Wukari, he was attacked by unidentified gunmen who robbed him of the said money amounting to N200, 000.

It was learnt that upon his return to the town, his supporters took up arms against another ethnic group which they allegedly

suspected to be behind the attack.

The Taraba Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Joseph Kwaji, confirmed the incident in Ibi but said he was yet to ascertain the casualty figure.

He said 14 suspects have been arrested in respect of the attack while two AK 47 rifles were recovered from the scene of the attack.

The police spokesman confirmed that the crisis started over an alleged attack on a man who went to Wukari to withdraw his money.

Kwaji further stated that security personnel, including the police and soldiers were instantly drafted to the area and that

normalcy has returned to the town while investigations continue.

Ethno-religious violence in Taraba State, especially in Ibi-Wukari axis, has been a recurrent decimal in recent times, with many people killed, while property worth millions of Naira destroyed.

Leader of Hausa/Fulani youths in Ibi, Abdulrashid Usman Ajiya, who spoke to the BBC Hausa, accused Jukun people of first attacking them as well as hiring mercenaries to assist in unleashing mayhem.

But former youths leader of the Jukun people in the area, Mr Jonah Azongwa, denied the allegation, saying it was the Hausa/Fulani people who first attacked.